by the US in the context of market access negotiations of the Uruguay Round. Our Ambassador had stated that this note, in effect, interprets unilaterally, certain provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and that India does not accept this unilateral interpretation.

India and the USA had negotiations at Geneva between 21st and 27th March, 1994 on the subject of market access in the textiles sector taking into account the desire of both the countries for greater market access. However these negotiations did not result in any agreement.

The negotiations between the two countries on the issue of market access in textiles are likely to be resumed shortly with a view to find a mutually satisfactory solution.

Quota Rights for Textile imports

6565. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEEN A VERM A:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US decision to drop a plan to sell quota rights for textile imports has come as a relief for Indian exports; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan in question and the nature and extent of relief arising from this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Sometime ago there were media reports that the US administration was considering the feasibility of auctioning textile quotas with a view to raise new revenue to offset part of the anticipated decline in tariff revenue attributed to the implementation of the Uruguay Round. However, the US administration seems to have subsequently appreciated the fact that both under the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) and the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing incorporated in the Final Act, the responsibility for administering quotas is that of the concerned exporting country and that therefore it would not be possible for the importing countries to auction textile quotas. According to the latest available information, quota auctioning does not appear to be an active issue any longer in the USA.

The Indian textile exporters are happy that the existing mechanism for administering quotas will not undergo any change.

Arrears Payable to Sugar Mills by NTC/BIC

6566. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Government has invited his attention to the arrears amounting to Rs. 326 lakh payable to sugar mills by NTC/BIC; if so, what action has been taken to disburse the amount; and

(b) whether funds have been allocated so far, if not, what are the difficulties and by when funds are likely to be placed at the disposal of sugar mills for payment to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Cawnpore Sugar Works, Champaran Sugar Company & Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company are not nationalised Companies which can be provided budgetory support through NTC/BIC. These companies have been advised to explore other alternatives to generate resources to enable them continued survival. The B.I.F.R. has been entrusted with the responsibility of revitalisation of these companies under the provisions of Sick Industries

Companial (Sepecial Provision) Act, 1985.

Closure of Handloom Industries

6567. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Handloom industries dosed down in the country and Gujarat, in particular, State-wise during the last two years;

(b) whether the State Government have requested for financial assistance for providing loans to handloom weavers to revive those industries; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) According to the State Government there is no permanent closure as such of any handloom units in the Country during the last two years. However, only the Government of Bihar has reported closure of 11000 handloom units in the last two years due to rapid increase in prices of hank yarn etc., According to the Government of Gujarat, no handloom industrial cooperative society was closed in that State during the last two years. (1992-93 and 1993-94).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Handloom and Handicraft Products from Gujarat

6568. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of handloom and handicraft products exported from Gujarat, during each of the three years, particularly from Saurashtra region;

(b) whether there is a vast scope for increasing the export of these items from that State; and

(c) if so, the measures taken in this regard during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) State-wise data on exports of handloom and handicraft items are not maintained.

(b) yes Sir. There is some scope for increasing exports of Gujarat's handloom and handicraft goods, particularly Zari, Tie & Dye and Hand-printed textiles etc.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of handloom and handicraft products from the country, including Gujarat, such as sponsoring Buyer Seller Meets, Participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes etc.

गुजरात से कपास का निर्यात

6569. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर देवः** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) गत तीन वर्षों और चालू वर्ष के दौरान, अलग-अलग, गुजरात से कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में कपास का निर्यात किया गया;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने कपास के निर्यात हेतु नए बाजारों का पता लगाने हेतु कोई कदम उठाए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों तथा चालू वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात से निर्यात की गई कपास की मात्रा इस प्रकार है:—